CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for storage of information, comprising:
   magnetic ink having a stored information signal.

2. The magnetic ink of claim 1, wherein the stored information signal
includes an analog information signal.

3. The magnetic ink of claim 1, wherein the stored information signal
includes a digital information signal.

4. The magnetic ink of claim 1, wherein the stored information signal
includes a time-varying frequency signal.

5. A magnetic information storage structure, comprising:
   a surface; and
   magnetic ink applied to the surface, said magnetic ink
magnetized such as to contain an encoded information signal.

6. A magnetic ink encoding stylus, comprising:
   a penpoint adapted to apply magnetic ink to a surface; and
   a magnetic ink write head, coupled to the penpoint and
adapted to apply a varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink as it is
applied by the penpoint to the surface.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the magnetic ink write head
includes:
   a magnetic field generator, and
   a magnetic shield.

1   8.   The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the magnetic field generator

2   includes a magnetic coil.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the magnetic coil is a wire coil.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a magnetic field

2   director.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the magnetic field director

2   includes an iron core element.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the magnetic ink write head

2   includes a plurality of magnetic pole faces.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a signal generator

2   coupled to the magnetic ink write head.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the signal generator includes a

2   analog timing signal generator.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the signal generator includes a

2   digital signal generator.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a pressure sensor

2   coupled to the signal generator.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising encoding electronics

2   coupled to the magnetic ink write head.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a direction sensor

2   coupled to the encoding electronics.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a port adapted to be

2   coupled to an external computer bus, said port coupled to the magnetic ink write

3   head.

1   20.   A computer system, comprising:

2   a computer, including

3   a processor;

4   a memory coupled to the processor; and

5   an external bus coupled to the processor; and

6   a magnetic ink encoding stylus, including

7   a penpoint adapted to apply magnetic ink to a

8   surface;

9   a magnetic ink write head coupled to the

10   penpoint and adapted to apply a varying magnetic flux

11   to the magnetic ink as it is applied by the penpoint to

12   the surface; and

13   a port coupled to the magnetic ink write head

14   and to the external bus.

1   21.   The computer system of claim 20, wherein the magnetic ink encoding

2   stylus includes a signal generator.

1   22.   The computer system of claim 20, wherein the magnetic ink encoding

2   stylus includes encoding electronics.

1   23.   The computer system of claim 20, wherein the computer includes:

2   a graphics tablet coupled to the processor; and

3   a handwriting recognition application coupled to the

4   processor.

1   24.   A method of storing information, comprising:

2   applying magnetic ink on a surface; and

3   applying a varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink.

1   25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the information is digital

2 information signal.

1   26.   The method of claim 24, wherein the information is security data.

1   27.   The method of claim 24, wherein applying a varying magnetic flux to

2 the applied magnetic ink includes:

3   generating a varying magnetic field corresponding to an

4 information signal, the varying magnetic field intersecting the applied

5 magnetic ink.

1   28.   The method of claim 27, further comprising:

2   responsive to sensing stylus pressure, generating the

3 information signal.

1   29.   The method of claim 27, wherein the information signal is a timing

2 signal.

1   30.   The method of claim 27, wherein the information signal is received

2 from a computer.